WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of instrumenting Java components installed on an application server in order to enable the Java components to be monitored, the method comprising:

adding a patch to a class loader class of a Java virtual machine installed on the application server, wherein the patch causes the class loader class to pass Java components to an instrumentation component when said Java components are loaded by the Java virtual machine;

receiving, from a patched version of said class loader class, code of a Java component to be loaded by the Java virtual machine; and

with the instrumentation component, instrumenting said code of the Java component to add functionality for tracking execution times.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein instrumenting said code comprises adding calls to each of a plurality of methods of the Java component, to thereby provide functionality for monitoring execution times of said methods.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein instrumenting said code comprises adding functionality for detecting when the Java component is invoked by a colored transaction request message.

4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein instrumenting said code comprises adding functionality for reporting transaction identifiers of transactions that invoke the Java component, to thereby allow said execution times to be associated with transactions to which they correspond.